

Friday 10th April  
Good Friday



# The Link

*Community, Worship, Culture*

CATHEDRAL  
ISLE OF MAN

## **Welcome to the Cathedral – at home!**

You will be aware that the Bishop has asked us to close the doors of our beautiful Cathedral for the time being, so Reverend Ruth has put together a simple form of Liturgy for Good Friday which you may use in your homes:

When pilgrimage to the Holy Land was not possible, the tradition of walking the Stations of the Cross locally, as a spiritual pilgrimage became popular.

Today, we don't have access to the pictures in the Cathedral (although you may like to look at some on the internet for example [www.catholictradition.org/Children/stations-cross.htm](http://www.catholictradition.org/Children/stations-cross.htm) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLGwLMLcq8k>), but God can still speak to us through the Scriptures and through our imagining of the scenes described.

Journey with us, as we ask God for a renewed understanding of his love for us and for the world he created. There will be pauses for reflection and your private prayers. Let us pray: Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**


## **We share in The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal. Have mercy on us.**

**We adore you O Christ and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**First Station: Jesus condemned to die:** Matthew 27: 11-14, 24,26b.

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood;  see to it yourselves." <sup>26b</sup> after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Jesus beaten and tortured, is wrongfully condemned to death. He places himself in God's hands. He is broken. He gives himself for us.

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**Second Station: Jesus carries his cross:** what were his thoughts as he lifted the heavy cross onto his shoulders? The rough splintering wood. At every step he enters more deeply into the crushing weight of our human suffering. With sorrow and gratitude I continue the journey. Moved by the power of his love.

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**Third Station: Jesus falls:** Exhausted, Jesus falls to the ground. He knows the weight of unfair burdens. He is pulled up and made to continue. As I look into his eyes, I know he understands all my weariness and defeat, whatever their cause. As I see him stand again, I gain inner strength from him. I express my love and gratitude.

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**Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother:** A piercing memory of a prophecy. Luke 2: 34, 35 <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." Imagine how mother and son look at each other. Strength comes to them both from the deep bond of a shared love and trust in God. He knows all our grief and loss. He has placed us in fellowship families.

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**Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus to carry his cross: Mark 15:21** <sup>21</sup> They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Jesus knows how we can struggle to allow others to help us. And he knows I can't carry my burdens alone. Jesus looks at Simon with the utmost humility and gratitude. How do we feel about giving and receiving help in our current time of isolation?

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**Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.** Tradition tells us of a compassionate disciple who wipes away the mocking spit of abuse; perhaps especially poignant at this time of fear from spread of covid-19 virus. Her reward is to find the image of Jesus' face left on the cloth. We too are blessed by the imprint of Jesus in our lives when we follow and serve him. Grant me courage and compassion in the face of suffering and the mess of life. Help me to see Christ in everyone I meet.

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**Seventh Station: Jesus falls a second time:** On the ground, deeply exhausted, Jesus shares in the frailty of the sick, the disabled and the ageing. Remember you are dust and to dust you will return. And I know I am never alone in my suffering.

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**Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem: Luke 23:27-28**

. 27 A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. 28 But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children..."

These women knew the compassion and the acceptance of Jesus; he had broken many religious and social conventions when he welcomed and affirmed them. He feels their grief. He knows my grief. I remember all his tender and merciful love for me.

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**Ninth Station: Jesus falls again:** He is broken for me; poured out for me: I receive that gift of love.

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**Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped:** Mark 15: 24b "they divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take." Imagine the pain as clothing is dragged from the wounds on his back; the complete indignity of being naked. Defenceless. The futility of attachment to possessions is clear. And I know: He did this for me.

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**Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross:** Hear the sound of the hammer, as large cruel nails fix Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. Imagine the excruciating struggle to breathe. Can there be any agony that he would not understand? This is for me. For all who suffer.

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**Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross Luke 23:44-46** <sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

My song is love unknown. My Saviour's love for me. Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be. O who am I that for my sake, my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

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**Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross.** I think of all the places he walked. The people those hands have blessed. I try to remember his words. All that he gave.

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**Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb** Matthew 27: 57-61<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

I stand outside the tomb. The tomb of Joseph. A gift. And I ask: What can I give to Jesus now?

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We close our journey together, with the words of St. Richard of Chichester:

**Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

We leave this service in silence and continue in an attitude of prayer.

Thank you for sharing with us.

*You may enjoy this piece of music later: Peter has prepared "O Thou whose sweet compassion does through the ages shine", from JH Maunder's cantata 'Olivet to Calvary', sung by the Oratory Singers, directed by him.*

*It can be viewed at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1yrSr\\_Ns0I&t](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1yrSr_Ns0I&t) or on the Cathedral website in the Cathedral at home section.*